

18th February, 1800.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House, on Thursday next.

A BILL

For removing any military force of the United States from the places of holding elections.

1 SEC. 1. **B**E it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
2 the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it shall be
3 unlawful for any military force in the service of the United States, to
4 appear armed or embodied at the place, and on the day of holding an
5 election for electors of the President, and Vice-President of the United
6 States, or of any member of Congress, or of the Governor, or a mem-
7 ber of the legislature, of any state; or in any manner to interfere with
8 such elections.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That if any body of troops shall
2 be stationed in the neighbourhood of the place where such election may
3 be held, and notice thereof be given by the person holding the same,
4 to their commanding officer, it shall be his duty in a special manner, to
5 superintend their conduct on that day so as to prevent any violation of
6 this act, and for that purpose to detain them in camp, unless it shall be
7 signified to him in writing by the officer, or officers presiding over or

8 conducting such election, that the vicinity of such troops will incom-
9 mode or may overawe the voters, and that he is requested to remove
10 them to such convenient distance not exceeding as in such
11 notice may be prescribed, in which case it shall be the duty of the offi-
12 cer to conform to the request contained in such notice: *Provided al-*
13 *ways,* That it shall be lawful for such officer, to leave at the proper
14 station, such guard as may be necessary for the protection of the works,
15 military stores and other property, which may have been entrusted to
16 his care.

1 SEC. 3 *And be it further enacted,* That any officer who shall refuse
2 or fail to observe the regulations of this act shall be adjudged guilty of
3 disobedience of orders and shall be cashiered. Nothing in this act con-
4 tained shall be construed to deprive soldiers of their right to vote as
5 citizens, for which purpose those who are entitled to vote, may be
6 permitted to attend such election as other persons.